

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the originally-filed Abstract of the above-referenced U.S. application, and provides the amended Abstract on a separate sheet. In addition, the Preliminary Amendment amends the originally-filed specification of the above-referenced U.S. application via a Substitute Specification, and to refer to and claim priority from the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/007100 which was filed on April 12, 2005 and published on October 27, 2005 as International Publication No. WO 2005/100949, and from Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2004-118201 and 2005-112644, filed April 13, 2004 and April 8, 2005, respectively, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2). In addition, the specification has been amended to remove minor informalities from originally-filed PCT application, as provided herewith in the enclosed Substitute Specification. A marked-up comparison documents between the English language translation of the originally-filed specification and the Substitute specification is enclosed herewith. The title of the PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/007100 has also been deleted, and a new title provided as set forth herein above.

Further, originally-filed claims 1-8 of the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/007100 been cancelled, without prejudice, and new claims 9-16 have been added to provide the original claims 1-8 in an appropriate form for prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and not due to any reason of patentability. Accordingly, claims 9-16 are now under consideration in the above-identified application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification and new claims do not add new matter to the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/007100 includes an International Search Report, dated July 19, 2005, a copy of which is included. The


Search Report includes a list of document(s) that have been considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

Enclosed herewith, please also find a copy of the PCT Written Opinion for the International Application No. PCT/JP2005/007100 dated July 19, 2005. Applicants note that PCT Written Opinion confirms that the original claims 1-8 fully conform with the requirements of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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